

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: Wed., June 15, 2005

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes No XX

Department: Commissioner David Rice, District 4

Staff Contact Person: Tamara Lundstrom

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Approval of appointment of J. Bradford Trout to the Library Advisory Board to fulfill the term of Kathleen Fischer, who recently resigned due to move out of the area.

ITEM BACKGROUND: Mr. Trout has a history of involvement with the Marathon Library since 1998, and has been active with the Friends of the Library for the past two years. He has worked on several local community projects, including the Field of Dreams children's park, local benefits, sports, and school-sponsored youth challenge social programs.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: Kathleen Fischer was appointed as the District 4 representative on the Library Advisory Board in December 2002.

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST: _____

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** _____ **Year** _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:

David P. Rice *DPR*
(David P. Rice, Commissioner)

DOCUMENTATION: Included XX Not Required

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____

**Monroe County Boards and Committees
Appointment Information**

Board or Committee: Library Advisory Board

Commissioner Appointing Member: Commissioner David P. Rice, District 4

Name of Member: J. Bradford Trout

Address: 2001 Sombrero Beach Rd.

Marathon, FL 33050

Phone Numbers: Work: N/A Home: 305 289-8234

Date of Appointment: June 15, 2005

Reappointment: No

Date Term Expires: January 1, 2007

Name of Person Being Replaced: N/A

Fulfilling Term of: Kathleen Fischer

Re: Appointment to Library Advisory Board

Mr. Rice,

In accordance with your request for a brief bio outlining my involvement with the Marathon Branch of the Monroe County Library System, I offer the following.

I began my interaction with the local library in 1998 when I volunteered to help Gloria Goodman with the Summer Reading Program. This summer will mark the seventh year that alliance has produced a diverse schedule of events benefiting the children of Marathon and the surrounding areas supplementing a fine existing program established earlier by Ms. Goodman. These events have included book readings, story telling, skits, puppet shows and sing-a-longs in addition to a wide array of presentations and educational entertainment from outside sources such as wildlife from Marathon Wild Bird Rescue, Conservation Officers from nearby Florida State Parks, the canine branch of the Monroe County Sheriffs Office and much more. In addition to this, I have greatly enjoyed

regularly coming to our young audience. We have routinely drawn crowds in excess of fifty children for our weekly program and several of the local daycare centers make regular en masse visits to us throughout the summer. We are understandably very proud of this program and its impact.

About two years ago I was asked to join the Friends of the Marathon Library Board of Directors and shortly afterward was appointed interim vice-president, serving in that capacity until elections could be held to permanently fill the open position. In the time since I have joined the group, I have concentrated my efforts on new library support projects, new funding options, PR and creating a more harmonious atmosphere of cooperation dedicated to furthering the goal of increasing support for the local library and its manager, Ms. Goodman. I believe we have established a better working relationship between our group, the library and the county and look forward to achieving many of the goals we have set for ourselves. We have managed to more than double the amount of money donated yearly to the library, funding such projects as acquiring a computer for the Spanish speaking patrons which I spearheaded, expanding the Books on Tape collection, supplementing the reference section and most recently I worked with Ms. Goodman and Karen Hoth of the Media Center of Marathon High School to facilitate a substantial expansion of the Young Adult section of the branch in an attempt provide a valuable educational resource for the students and staff of the school and lure the children of that age group back to our facility. At present Gloria and I are working with Norma Kula in an attempt to create a lending program that will provide ease of access to this resource for those interested in tapping into it.

My experience in the business world has served our group well in increasing the Friends budget by tapping into existing funding resources and exploring new ones. In the Fall of 2004, I made a presentation to the Marathon City Council following an application for funding that resulted in The Friends getting a grant from the city budget effectively raising our annual donations to the local branch by some fifty percent.

Our latest and most ambitious project, of which I feel I am an integral part, is our effort to work with the powers that be of Monroe County and Marathon to build a new library in Marathon. Though still in the initial stages, we have actively helped to lay the groundwork for the project and have already formulated a plan to pursue several innovative courses of action to secure funding to aid in filling the new and increased space with a broad spectrum of literary resources to benefit the local and seasonal patrons. We at the Friends hope to see this project through to completion and in doing so to instill the desire in others to come forward and do their part to support the cause.

In closing let me say that in addition to that which is mentioned above, I have taken pride in participating in other like endeavors in Marathon. I played an active and guiding role in the Marathon in Action benefits for cancer victims Capt. J.C. Wells and Dylan Picariello in which more than a hundred thousand dollars was raised to help fight their respective battles. I was a part of the team that brought the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life annual fundraiser to Marathon five years ago. I was a hands-on participant in building the Rotary Club Field of Dreams Children's Park in Marathon. I also am very proud to have helped establish a program called STARS (acronym for Supporting Tolerance, Acceptance and Respect in Students) at Marathon High School/Middle School that for four years benefited challenged youth and helped provide a loving, nurturing, safe environment for growth and maturation. In the process we went a long way toward breaking down common barriers and addressing some of the more insidious issues that the children face and through awareness brought about a campus environment more conducive to learning and the enjoyment of childhood. And lastly, for the last two years I have volunteered with the AYSO Youth Soccer Program, of which Marathon vice-mayor Chris Bull is director. I have served as a referee of games for children ages eight to eighteen.

In anticipation of my appointment to the vacant position on the Library Advisory Board, I look forward to serving the libraries and the county in a way that will benefit the populace and the system alike.

Sincerely,
Brad Trout

ph: 289-8234
em: bluesboybrad@mac.com
2001 Sombra Beach Rd.
Marathon, FL 33050

Appx. June 2005 fulfill term of
Kathleen Fischer thru Jan. 2007

March 28, 2005

Commissioner David Rice
District 4
Florida Keys Marathon Airport
9400 Overseas Hwy Suite 210
Marathon, FL 33050

Dear Commissioner David Rice,

This letter is to inform you that I will be resigning from the Monroe County Library Advisory Board as of June 1, 2005.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be part of the Library Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Fischer